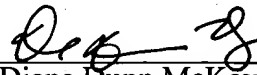


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Diane Dunn McKay

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hirao, H. et al.

Serial No.: 09/919,024

Group Art Unit: 1754

Filed: July 31, 2001

Examiner: TBD

Title: Method for Starting Up Reactor

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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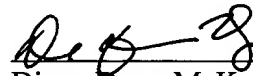
Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the United States Patent and Trademark Office the following documents of which Applicants have been made aware. The documents are listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. Copies of the documents are enclosed.

Applicants submit a copy of the European Search Report, indicating that the references were considered to be related to technical background of claim 1. With regard to WO 99/31012 and WO 99/20590, applicants also submit a translation of the pages considered relevant in the European Search Report.

It is requested that the references be considered by the Examiner and be made of record as part of the available prior art under 37 C.F.R. § 1.104. It is believed that no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Dunn McKay

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